



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY TO HOST “PHILOSOPHY TALK” ON RITES OF PASSAGE IN ANCIENT GREECE

A Continuation of the Exciting “Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Poetry-Drama-Dialogue” Series

SAN DIEGO – SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library continues its presentation of the *Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Poetry-Drama-Dialogue* series with a “philosophy talk” by series scholar Professor Katerina Zacharia on *Rites of Passage in Ancient Greece* on Sunday, May 20, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor Wangenheim Rare Book Room of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. The Library is one of only 16 libraries nationwide to receive a grant to host this series. Dr. Zacharia teaches in the Department of Classics and Archaeology at Loyola Marymount University. This program is free and open to the public. The Library’s Philosophy Talk series is designed as a safe and collegial opportunity to connect the richness of philosophical thought to everyday life and is part of the Library’s “talk series,” including literature, mythology and science that seeks to illuminate inquiries of human culture.

Ancient Greek societies punctuated life by obvious biological moments, such as birth, puberty, childbirth, death, as well as non-natural events, such as military service and marriage. Greek city states marked the transition to full citizen status in elaborate ways which involved prolonged periods of military and other types of training. These periods were often characterized by ritualized behavior. Looking at examples of Greek heroes and divinities, the presentation will explore initiation rituals from childhood to adulthood and study the ideology of military solidarity that underpins these rituals. Greek tragedy is fascinated by processes of maturation which must overcome obstacles or which go terribly wrong.

Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Poetry-Drama-Dialogue is a ground breaking in-depth partnership sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and involving New York’s acclaimed Aquila Theatre, the American Philological Association, the Urban Libraries Council, New York University’s Center for Ancient Studies, and the Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies. Events are designed to inspire people to come together to read, see, and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life.

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Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Poetry-Drama-Dialogue is a program that has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: great ideas brought to life. www.ancientgreekmodernlives.org. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Learn about future programs and other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

Inspiring lifelong learning through connections to knowledge and each other.

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